STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth session - 8 May 1950
Lake Success, New York

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STATISTICIANS

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its ninth session, the Economic and Social Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Statistical Commission, recommended that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the International Statistical Institute "take appropriate steps to further the improvement of education in statistics on an international scale" (resolution 231 C (IX)).

2. At the 26th session of the International Statistical Institute (Berne, 1949), a report, "The Furtherance of Statistical Education" was presented to the general assembly of the Institute. The Institute's Committee on Statistical Education considered the report and recommended a programme of action and an initial budget for 1950, which was approved by the International Statistical Institute (10 September 1949).

3. The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1949 approved a grant to the Institute for the year 1950 of not more than $14,000 for the development and execution of a programme of education. At its March 1950 session the Executive Board of UNESCO was to be asked to authorize the expenditure of these funds for 1950.

4. The programme of the International Statistical Institute recommended to UNESCO consists of three elements. The first will be the development of a regional statistical education centre. Such a centre properly located to service a wide area in general need of fully qualified statisticians should provide intermediate and advanced education in statistical theory and application. It is proposed to use the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta by adding to its
resources through the facilities available to the International Statistical Institute and UNESCO. This measure is expected to provide an adequate curriculum in statistics for students from nearby countries of South-East Asia and the Far East. The second aspect of the programme would provide means through fellowships and grants by which students could attend the Calcutta statistical education centre and other existing centres in order to obtain advanced education. The International Statistical Institute and UNESCO would encourage national authorities to create fellowships in statistics and would explore additional means to provide funds for such purposes. The third part of the programme would stimulate efforts to provide textbooks and other teaching materials in the required languages and make them available in the areas where such facilities were deficient.

5. The Secretary-General is informed that plans are being drawn up for the curriculum of the educational centre at Calcutta and for the selection of staff. It is proposed that the centre will begin in December 1950.